

DUAL-ARM LINEAR SLIDE MECHANISM FOR AN EXTENDABLE
REARVIEW MIRROR FOR VEHICLES

1 RELATED APPLICATIONS

2 The present application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending patent application serial
3 number 10/092,580 filed March 8, 2002 for "Linear Slide Mechanism for an Extendable Rearview
4 Mirror for Vehicles," which claimed priority from provisional application serial number
5 60/283,753 filed on April 16, 2001, entitled "Linear Slide Mechanism for an Extendable Rearview
6 Mirror for Vehicles."

7 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

8 The present invention relates to a rearview mirror for a vehicle which is extendable toward
9 or away from the vehicle laterally to selectively provide different viewing positions as desired, for
10 example when the vehicle is towing a trailer or the like.

11 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

12 It is known to provide vehicles with extendable rearview mirrors which extend selectively
13 from the vehicle body along a support arm which extends laterally from the body of the vehicle.
14 This type of extendable mirror is shown for example in U.S. Patent 5,572,376 issued to Pace.
15 The Pace mirror further includes a rack gear drive and a flexible boot which provides a cover
16 between the vehicle and the motor housing to protect portions of the apparatus from exposure. A
17 problem with this prior art device, however, is that the slidable components of the sub-assembly
18 and support arm produce wear of the parts, thus creating undesirable movement in the slide
19 assembly which produces excessive vibration in the mirror assembly resulting in poor vision
20 through the mirror. It is known to use plate springs such as shown in the above-captioned U.S.